

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 IO-13
ACDA-07 EUR-12 CU-04 /109 W
-----046546 250717Z /21

R 250601Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 479
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY RANGOON
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMEMBASSY MANILA
USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 TOKYO 12977

USLO PEKING FOR SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: JA, US, ASEAN
SUBJECT: JAPANESE BRIEFING ON FUKUDA ASEAN SUMMIT VISIT

REF: (A) TOKYO 12936 (NOTAL), (B) TOKYO 12978

SUMMARY. JAPANESE CONSIDER FUKUDA SUMMIT MEETING WITH ASEAN
LEADERS MAJOR SUCCESS, ESTABLISHING FUKUDA'S ROLE AS
SENIOR STATESMAN. JAPAN MADE COMMITMENT TO \$1 BILLION
SUPPORT TO ASEAN PROJECTS BUT WILL SIT AND WAIT FOR
RESULTS OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES. JAPAN TURNED ASIDE
REQUESTS FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF ASEAN EXPORTS,
AGREED STUDY STABEX SCHEME AND TO SET UP REGULAR
CONSULTATIONS ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES. END SUMMARY.
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1. AT REQUEST OF FOREIGN MINISTER, DEPUTY MINISTER
YOSHINO CALLED IN DCM AUGUST 24 TO BRIEF US ON RESULTS
OF PRIME MINISTER FUKUDA'S VISIT TO ASEAN SUMMIT.
2. YOSHINO STRESSED THAT VISIT HAD BEEN A SOLO
PERFORMANCE BY FUKUDA WHO WAS THROUGHOUT FORTHCOMING

IN HIS ATTITUDES AND CLEARLY REGARDED BY ASEAN LEADERS AS SIGNIFICANT LEADER WHO WAS BOTH SENIOR IN AGE AND EXPERIENCE AND WELL INFORMED ON ISSUES. HE MADE A GOOD IMPRESSION IF ONLY BECAUSE HE WAS MORE CANDID AND OUTSPOKEN THAN THE USUAL JAPANESE DIPLOMAT.

3. FUKUDA REPEATED ASSURANCES THAT JAPAN WOULD NOT BECOME A MILITARY FORCE BUT WOULD TRY TO DIVERT ITS ENERGIES AND ITS TRADE SURPLUSES TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ESPECIALLY IN SEA.

4. CONSIDERABLE TIME AT KUALA LUMPUR SUMMIT WAS SPENT IN RESPONSE TO THANIN'S QUESTION ABOUT JAPANESE ATTITUDES TOWARD INDOCHINA. YOSHINO SAID JAPANESE AMBASSADOR IN BANGKOK HAD ADVISED THAT PRIME MINISTER SOFT-PEDALED SUGGESTION OF AID TO VIETNAM. YOSHINO SAID, HOWEVER, THAT FUKUDA REPLIED FRANKLY TO THANIN'S INQUIREIS THAT WHILE JAPANESE AID WOULD GO PRINCIPALLY TO SEA IT MIGHT BE WISE TO KEEP A "SLENDER STRING" TO VIETNAM SO AS NOT TO ISOLATE IT AND SO AS TO HELP KEEP IT OUT OF SOVIET OR CHINESE CAMP. WHILE MAIN FOCUS WOULD BE ON AID TO ASEAN, JAPAN WOULD LIKE TO SEE PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE BETWEEN INDOCHINA STATES AND ASEAN STATES. JAPAN DID NOT INTEND TO MEDIATE BETWEEN TWO GROUPS BUT MIGHT FIND SOME WAYS OF FACILITATING CONTACTS. YOSHINO SAID THANIN SEEMED TO BE PERSUADED JAPAN'S CONFIDENTIAL

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POLICY WAS SATISFACTORY AND NONE OF THE OTHER PRIME MINISTERS RAISED OBJECTIONS. HE NOTED THAT DURING THE SUBSEQUENT VISITS TO ASEAN COUNTRIES VIETNAM SUBJECT WAS RAISED EACH TIME. YOSHINO SAID GOJ WAS THINKING OF OFFERING A GRANT TO VIETNAM WHICH WOULD HAVE EFFECT OF SETTING ASIDE DEBTS OWED. HE SAID HE FELT PRESSURE OF JAPANESE BUSINESS CIRCLES MIGHT FORCE DECISION FAIRLY SOON. HE SAID HE DID NOT EXPECT RELATIONS TO MOVE AHEAD VERY QUICKLY.

5. ASEAN HEADS OF STATE STRESSED THEIR REQUEST FOR IMPROVED ACCESS OF JAPANESE MARKETS. FUKUDA HOWEVER HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MAKE ANY PROMISES IN THIS REGARD BECAUSE MINISTRIES, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURE, CONTINUED TO OBJECT. AS TO ASEAN REQUESTS FOR PREFERENTIAL TREATMENT, FUKUDA PROMISED ONLY TO STEP UP STUDY OF GSP IN GATT FRAMEWORK. AS TO SUPPORT FOR STABE SCHEME, FUKUDA AGREED ONLY TO STUDY IT CAREFULLY FROM ALL ASPECTS.

6. FUKUDA AGREED CONSULT CAREFULLY WITH ASEAN ON NORTH-SOUTH ISSUES, SUCH AS UPCOMING COMMON FUND DISCUSSIONS.

YOSHINO SAID HE WAS PERSONALLY CONCERNED THAT THIS COMMITMENT WOULD REQUIRE A GREAT DEAL OF TIME FROM PEOPLE LIKE HIM FOR THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS AND THAT GIVEN JAPANESE GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL POLICIES MOST OF THOSE BUREAUCRATS WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED FUKUDA WOULD HAVE BEEN REPLACED BY THE TIME CONSULTATIONS BEGIN. DCM NOTED THAT EXISTENCE OF CONSULTATIVE MECHANISM MAY HELP JAPAN EXERCISE A POSITIVE INFLUENCE ON ATTITUDES OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN STATES IN NORTH-SOUTH MULTILATERAL FORUMS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 TOKYO 12977/02

7. RE AID, YOSHINO CONFIRMED THAT FUKUDA HAD PROMISED TO CONSIDER POSITIVELY MAKING \$1 BILION TO THE FIVE ASEAN REGIONAL PROJECTS. HE NOTED CAREFULLY THAT MOST OF THE PROJECTS WERE NOT YET FIRM, THAT FEASIBILITY STUDIES HAD NOT YET BEEN MADE AND THAT JAPAN COULD THEREFORE SIT AND WAIT. JAPAN FELT INDONESIA UREA PROJECT WAS PROBABLY MOST PROMISING AND THE PRELIMINARY FEASIBILITY STUDY WAS, ACCORDING TO INDONESIANS, ALREADY AVAILABLE. HE FEELS MALAYSIAN UREA PLANT UNCERTAIN, THAT THAI SODA ASH LAN WOULD TAKE A LONG TIME TO STUDY AND WAS OF UNCERTAIN MERIT. HE SAID PHILIPPINE PROJECT ALSO DOUBTFUL AND WOULD REQUIRE LENGTHY

FEASIBILITY STUDY. HE NOTED QUARRELING BETWEEN
SEVERAL STATES OVER DIESEL ENGINE PRODUCTION AND
UNCERTAINTY ABOUT WHETHER SINGAPORE'S PRODUCING
ENGINES OVER TPP HORSEPOWER WOULD BE FEASIBLE ON
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REGIONAL BASIS.

8. YOSHINO STRESSED THAT WHILE JAPAN WAS COMMITTED
TO HELPING ASEAN COUNTRIES SOLIDIFY REGIONAL
COOPERATION, JAPAN BASICALLY GIVES FIRST PRIORITY TO
INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION.

9. YOSHINO SAID FUKUDA HAD TAKEN UP FOREIGN MINISTRY
IDEA OF OFFERING TO SET UP CULTURAL EXCHANGE FUND WHICH
WOULD BE USED TO FINANCE CULTURAL EXCHANGE AMONG ASEAN
COUNTRIES. THIS FUND WOULD SUPPLEMENT PRESENT JAPAN
FUND WHICH FACILITATES TRAVEL OF ASEAN NATIONALS TO
JAPAN. MATTERS WAS LEFT THAT ASEAN MINISTERS OF
EDUCATION WOULD SUBMIT PROPOSAL FOR USE OF FUND.
YOSHINO SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD PUSHED HARD FOR
FUND AS SELFLESS JAPANESE GESTURE TO COUNTERACT SEA
VIEW OF JAPAN AS "ECONOMIC ANIMAL."

10. DCM ASKED HOW JAPAN SAW FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ITS
RELATIONS WITH ASEAN. YOSHINO SAID FOREIGN MINISTRY
EXPECTED CONTINUE MAINTAIN CLOSE LIASON WITH ASEAN
SECRETARIAT.

11. BILATERAL CONVERSATION IN FIVE ASEAN CAPITALS AND
RANGOON BEING REPORTED SEPTEL.
MANSFIELD

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